

[For Private Circulation.]

REPORT OF AID

GIVEN TO

Destitute Mothers and Infants

IN

1883.

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.,

Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

A. S. WHITNEY, M. D.,

Resident Physician of N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M. D.,

Admitting Physician to the Mass. Infant Asylum.

OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

The object of this charity is :—

1. To give a short convalescence to any mother discharged with a young infant from a maternity hospital, no longer requiring medical care, but not yet able to work, and without means to procure the two or three weeks' rest so much needed at this period ; also, occasionally, previous to the admission of applicants to these hospitals, to pay their board for a week or two, in case they are without a home, friendless, and penniless

2. To find good boarding-places for those infants whose mothers are engaged in domestic service, or earning their living in any way which prevents their retaining the infants under their personal care, and to visit children so placed, in order to be sure that they have the attention which they require. Occasionally, also, a mother who lives in her own home receives temporary assistance.

3. Especially to watch over and befriend those unmarried mothers, who, not yet depraved, are in danger of falling into evil from their peculiarly exposed and friendless condition. A large proportion of these are girls under twenty years of age.

In selecting from a large number of applicants those whom we assist, we are governed by the following considerations :—

1st. The love of the mother for her infant, and her corresponding desire to support it and retain it in her care.

2d. The urgent necessity and danger of those young unmarried girls who are without friends who can assist them. This class are usually orphans.

3d. The temporary poverty which is the occasional misfortune of some respectable married women, who often need only a little help for two or three weeks until tided over this period.

On the other hand, we refuse,—

1st. Those who are actually depraved.

2d. Those who regard the care of their infants as a burden from which they wish to be relieved.

3d. Those who, having earned good wages for a considerable time previous to the application, have neglected the opportunity to save money, and thus have less claim than others to receive charity.

4th. Those who have relatives able to assist them.

5th. Those who appear to be permanent paupers (a certain class of women familiar to workers in all charities).

Our work, therefore, resolves itself into,—

1st. The careful investigation of cases that present themselves.

2d. The selection of good boarding-places for infants, and the constant supervision of infants placed at board.

3d. A friendly and judicious care for the welfare of the younger and more helpless mothers.

REPORT.

We have now completed the tenth year of our work, and, in offering our Report, desire to give our heartfelt thanks to the friends whose kindness has assisted us to relieve much suffering, prevent temporary poverty from sinking into pauperism, and to save the weak and ignorant from being led into vice and crime.

We find that there is a misapprehension on the part of some of our friends, who suppose that one object we have in view is to reform women of bad character. We do not include such women as these in our charity; but one of our motives in helping young unmarried mothers is to save them from being forced by circumstances into a life of sin. Those whose lives have always been sheltered can hardly understand the temptations which surround the lonely and friendless,—those over whose head stands no protecting roof.

A large proportion of those we help are very young, — between the ages of fifteen and twenty. Nearly all have led homeless, unprotected lives, many being orphans, and others with parents who have turned them out into the world at an early age to earn their own living. A young girl who has once fallen, who is without parents, or a home where she may be received, who has never earned more than one or two dollars a week, and who is now burdened with the care of a young infant, perhaps also suffering from ill-health, is in a very dangerous position. It is at this crisis that judicious and kindly help is needed; and Nature and Providence both point out the simplest, most effective and natural method of saving her. The experience of ten years has confirmed us in the belief, that to preserve the relation of the mother to her infant, and to aid her to support it, is at once a safeguard from evil and a means of developing her better nature, by filling with unselfish thought and love a life which would otherwise be empty, and especially exposed to temptation.

The married women whom we assist are usually anxious to avoid becoming a charge upon us, and frequently belong to a class who find it painful to ask or even to receive outside aid. Often they are suffering from ill-health, perhaps having broken down in a vain effort to earn the support of several children, who at the same time require the mother's constant personal care. In cases such as these, we generally help by sending milk for the infant of the family, and providing the feeble mother with warm clothing. Where there is neglect on the part of the husband to earn the support of his family, we endeavor to help the wife in such a way as will not assist him to evade a just responsibility. In some cases the wife comes to us directly after she has been obliged to leave a husband of unworthy character, and needs help only for a few weeks until she can make new arrangements. Among these women are some whom it is most satisfactory to help. There is no anxiety as to their character and conduct, nor any danger of pauperizing them; while there is the satisfaction of lightening somewhat their heavy burden of care, ill-health, and overwork.

Our aim is to enable those we help to become self-supporting as soon as possible; but the ability of a woman to support herself and child depends partly on the health of both of them, and also somewhat on other conditions. A woman who is strong and well, and who understands housework, can sometimes obtain a place in the country, retaining her child with her, and receiving low wages in consideration of its board. Such an arrangement as this is very satisfactory; but it is necessary that the mother should possess a certain degree of intelligence, and be capable as well as trustworthy.

We should be grateful to any of our friends who will kindly let us know of such places as these in the country; for though at times we may have no one on our list whose strength and capacity would enable her to fill such a place, yet it might be that we could send women whose services would be valuable.

During the past year we have received valuable aid of a kind for which we have often wished, but which has seldom been offered us. A lady who was desirous to help friendless women

has repeatedly taken into her own house a young unmarried mother and infant who had just left the Maternity Hospital, and after keeping each young mother with her for about two weeks, in order to give her time for rest and convalescence, she has in several instances found work for her, and retained a friendly supervision over her and her child. Such aid as this is of the greatest possible value.

The following brief statement with regard to some of the persons assisted during the year 1883 may interest our friends. The cases are not exceptional, and serve to show the nature of our work, and the conditions and circumstances which we are obliged daily to consider.

1. American, 17 years old, unmarried; lives in country town, not far from Boston. Mother ill with cancer. This girl came to us almost a year ago, and during the year her conduct has been entirely satisfactory. At first she went to an infant-asylum, hoping to remain as wet-nurse, her child being with her. She was not able to wet-nurse, and returned to her mother's. There she earns something by taking in work, nurses her sick mother, and takes care of her child, to whom she is strongly attached. She writes to us occasionally for advice, but has needed very little pecuniary aid.

2. Colored, 21 years, unmarried. For this woman we paid four weeks' board after she left the hospital; she and her infant were then taken together into an infant-asylum. After staying several months there as wet-nurse, the woman went to a situation in a family in the country, where she has her child with her. She wholly supports herself and child.

3. Irish-American, 20 years, unmarried; an orphan, her only relative an aunt with an intemperate husband. She had been confined at an alms-house, and afterwards was some months at Bridgwater. Her infant was eight month old when, in the spring of 1883, she came to us for help. She was in feeble health, and under medical treatment, and it seemed doubtful whether she would ever be able to support her child. But her strong love for it decided us to assist her. Good nourishment and good air restored, in a great measure, her health and strength, and she now has an excellent situation in a private family as nursery maid.

Her employer knows her history, is very kind to her, and finds her a faithful domestic. The child is at board, and the mother visits it frequently, and continues devotedly attached to it. She has caused us no anxiety since she went to her place, six months ago.

4. Scotch, 28 years, unmarried. Came to us in January, 1883, her infant at that time nine months old. She had very reluctantly decided to give the child up for adoption, and had carried her to an institution for children, for that purpose. The kind-hearted matron, seeing her grief at parting from her child, advised her to apply to us. We found a good boarding-place for the infant, and paid a dollar a week towards its expenses, the mother paying two dollars. In the summer the child's father, a sailor, came back from a voyage, the parents were married, and were glad to take the little girl to their home.

5. Irish-American, 23 years, unmarried. Had lived out at service since the age of seventeen, never earning more than two dollars a week, and giving the larger part of her wages to her parents. Had not seen her father for a year, and did not dare to go home, knowing that he would not receive her. Her mother had seen her, but had no means of helping her. It seemed a difficult case, for the young woman had never had a happy home, had been unfortunate in all her surroundings, and had evidently lived a careless, neglected sort of life. We were greatly assisted in this case by the kindness of a benevolent woman, who took the girl into her house and gave her a home there, caring for her as if she were her own daughter. With the birth of her child the girl's character seemed to change; her affection for it was so strong that she could not hear without tears the suggestion of placing it at board. She said, "I never had anybody to care for me before; now my baby will love me." An arrangement was therefore made by which she is able to go out to work by the day, she and her child boarding with the same kind friend who sheltered her when she was homeless. During the four months that we have had charge of the mother her behavior has been entirely satisfactory.

6. Irish, 16 years, unmarried. This seemed at first as if it might be a difficult case. The girl was pretty, but neglected, and had lived at service in boarding-houses of a poor kind. When she left the hospital, a lady who was interested in our work took her and her infant into her

own house for two weeks, and then found a boarding-place where the mother could have her child with her. The lady also found work by which before long the girl will be able wholly to support herself and child.

7. Irish, married. Husband intemperate, and therefore never able to keep work long, though when his habits were good he had earned high wages as a blacksmith. His wife finally obliged to leave him. There were two boys, six and seven years old, a girl under two years, and a young infant. The little girl died soon after we first saw the mother. None of the family had sufficient clothing, and the mother had been ill for months with a bronchial affection. When she applied to us it was for work, not charity, and she had walked several miles in wet snow, thinly clad, without any breakfast, and so hoarse that she had little voice with which to tell her story. Since then we have supplied her regularly with good milk for herself and the baby, and have given her warm clothing. She is now in much better health, and works out by the day, whenever able to do so, but cannot wholly support herself and the three children, and still requires a little assistance. This woman is of the better class of Irish, with a good face and a refined, gentle manner, — so eager to support herself that she had worked far beyond her strength.

8. American, married. Feeble health. suffers from rheumatism ; has four children. Husband worthless, deserted his family after his wife had been obliged to complain of him for not supporting the children. She struggled long to support the children herself, and was worn out with over-work. We paid the youngest child's board for several weeks. Now the mother has the infant, and a little girl of six with her, and the other two are temporarily placed in a charitable institution.

9. American, married ; has two children. Husband neglected to support his family, and rent becoming due they were turned out of their lodgings. On the same day the husband deserted his wife. She found work by the day, and the grandmother, who also worked out by the day, supported the oldest child, while the six months old infant was left during the day in the care of a woman who proved unfaithful, neglecting the child, and giving it opium. We found a good boarding-place for the little fellow, with however slight hope of preserving his life through

the summer. A physician who kindly attends our infants said that another week of drugging would probably have destroyed all chance of recovery. Notwithstanding this unfortunate beginning, he is now in good health.

We have received much kind aid from physicians, whose attention to our infants have been of the greatest service, and we desire to express our warm gratitude for this generous assistance.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MRS. WM. C. WILLIAMSON.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

LILIAN CLARKE.

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston.

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1883.*

Old cases (continued from 1882) ..	54	23 years old.....	3
New cases.....	63	24 " ".....	4
Whole number assisted.....	117	25 " ".....	5
Married women (new cases).....	22	26 " ".....	2
Unmarried women (new cases)...	41	27 " ".....	1
	63	28 " ".....	1
Married women (old cases).....	11	29 " ".....	1
Unmarried women (old cases)...	43	Unknown.....	1
	54		41
NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.		20 years old and under 20.....	16
(Unmarried.)		20 to 25 inclusive.....	19
Irish.....	9	Over 25.....	5
Irish-American	10	Unknown.....	1
British Provinces.....	10		41
American.....	6	NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.	
German	2	(Married.)	
Scotch.....	1	Irish.....	5
Swedish.....	1	Irish-American.....	1
Swiss.....	1	French-Irish.....	1
Colored.....	1	American.....	2
	41	Nova Scotia.....	1
NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.		English.....	1
(Married.)			11
Irish.....	3	NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.	
Irish-American.....	3	(Unmarried.)	
British Provinces.....	7	Irish.....	16
American.....	4	Irish-American.....	8
English.....	2	British Provinces.....	6
French-Canadian.....	2	American.....	7
German.....	1	Swedish.....	2
	22	English.....	1
AGES OF NEW CASES.		Welsh.....	1
(Unmarried.)		German.....	1
16 years old.....	3	Scotch.....	1
17 " ".....	3		43
18 " ".....	4	Irish and Irish American.....	24
19 " ".....	2	Provinces	6
20 " ".....	4	American	7
21 " ".....	3	Other Nationalities.....	6
22 " ".....	4		43

* It will be understood that each number represents a mother and an infant.

RECEIVED DURING 1883.

Bayley, Miss Mary E.....	\$10 00	Lamb, Miss Rose.....	\$10 00
Blake, Mrs. Geo. Baty.....	20 00	Lodge, Mrs. J. E.	100 00
Blake, Mrs. S. Parkman.....	2 00	Loring, C. W.....	20 00
Brewer, Miss C. A.....	10 00	Lowell, Miss. A. C.....	100 00
Cabot, Dr. S.....	25 00	Lowell, Mrs. John.....	10 00
Case, Mrs. J. B.....	10 00	Lyman, Arthur T.....	50 00
Clarke, Miss Cora H.....	5 00	Lyman, Mrs. Theodore.....	25 00
Clarke, Mrs. E. C.....	10 00	Mason, Miss Ida M.....	50 00
Clarke, James Freeman.....	100 00	May, Miss A. W.....	5 00
Coolidge, Dr. A.....	10 00	Minot, Dr. F.....	10 00
Coolidge, Mrs. J. T., Jr.....	10 00	Morse, Miss E. C.....	1 00
Gurtis, Mrs. Margaret S.	15 00	Motte, Mrs. E. L.....	5 00
Davis, Miss Annie W.....	10 00	Nichols, Mrs. W. R.....	1 00
Dresel, Mrs. Otto.....	20 00	Nickerson, Andrew.....	50 00
Endicott, Wm., Jr.....	100 00	Norcross, Miss Laura.....	5 00
Fields, Mrs. J. T.....	10 00	Parkman, Miss M. R.....	10 00
Forbes, Mrs. Wm. H.....	25 00	Parsons, Miss A. Q. T.....	5 00
Gardner, Mrs. George.....	25 00	Peabody, F. H.....	25 00
Goddard, Miss M. Louisa.....	5 00	Peirson, Mrs. C. L.....	20 00
Greene, Mrs. Wm. B.....	422 00	Phillips, Miss A. D.....	25 00
Greene, Mrs. W. B., for salary of assistant.....	153 00	Richardson, Mrs. Jeffrey.....	50 00
Greenough, Mrs. Anna A.	5 00	Russell, Mrs. Sarah S.....	50 00
Grew, Henry S.....	25 00	Shaw, Mrs. G. H.....	15 00
Gray, Mrs. Horace.....	25 00	Thayer, Mrs. C. T.....	100 00
Hemenway, Mrs. Mary.....	100 00	"Two Ladies," by Dr. W. L. Richardson.....	50 00
Higginson, George.....	400 00	Wales, Miss M. A.....	50 00
Higginson, Mrs. Waldo.....	10 00	Ware, Dr. C. E.....	100 00
Holmes, Mrs. O. W.....	5 00	Webbe, Mrs. A.....	25 00
Howes, Miss.....	50 00	Weld, Mrs. Isabella M.....	50 00
Huidekoper, Miss Elizabeth...	10 00	White, Miss Amy.....	5 00
Jackson, Miss Ellen.....	10 00	Wigglesworth, George.....	50 00
Kidder, H. P.....	50 00	Winslow, Mrs. W. C.....	5 00
Kimball, Mrs. David P.....	100 00	Wolcott, Mrs. J. Huntington..	40 00
Kimball, Miss H. F.....	5 00		

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

For women, Mrs. T. C. Smith.

" " Misses Sever.

For children, Mrs. S. H. Bertram.

" " Mrs. Cobbe.

For infants, Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke.

" " Mrs. W. S. Carter.

" " Mrs. Alex S. Porter.

" " Miss Mary B. Comyns.

For women and children, Misses Smith.

Large package for women and children, Boston Sewing Circle.

" " " Benev. Comm. of Arlington St. Church.

" " " Benev. Comm. of Church of Disciples.

" " " "a Friend."

Toys, Miss G. L. Putnam.

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER.

Dr.

To board of women	\$376 92
“ board of infants	1,344 58
“ clothing for women and infants	309 29
“ milk and food	288 56
“ medicine	109 36
“ fares and travelling	248 03
“ advertising	14 75
“ sundries	117 25
“ printing report	23 65
“ salary of assistant, paid by Mrs. W. B. Greene	153 00
“ balance on hand, Jan. 1, 1884	1 37
	<u>\$2,986 76</u>

Cr.

By cash on hand, Jan. 1, 1883	\$00 76
“ gift of Mrs. Wm. B. Greene for salary of assistant	153 00
“ subscriptions and donations	2756 00
“ interest on bond	70 00
“ repayment from woman assisted	7 00
	<u>\$2,986 70</u>